

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A tough polymer which is polyvinyl alcohol grafted in an amount of 1-99 wt.% with a water or alcohol soluble or dispersible monomer selected from vinyl caprolactam, 2-[(butylamino)carbonyl]oxy]ethyl acrylate, ~~or their quats~~, acrylic acid, tetrahydrofurfurylmethacrylate, hydroxyethylmethacrylate, vinyl pyridine, ethoxylated acrylates, methacrylic acid, methylmethacrylate, (2-methacryloxy)ethyl trimethylammonium sulfate, 1-vinylimidazole, styrene, silicone (eth-, meth-)acrylates, fluoro(eth-, meth-)acrylates, and mixtures thereof and quats thereof, optionally also including as additional monomer vinyl pyrrolidone, dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, and/or dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamide.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) A tough polymer according to claim 2 in which the polyvinyl alcohol is processed with 1-50 wt. % with said water or ethanol soluble or dispersible monomer.

Claim 4. (Previously Amended) A solution according to claim 2 in which said polymer is dissolved in a solvent selected from water, alcohol, water-alcohol, water-hydrocarbon, or water-alcohol-hydrocarbon mixtures.

Claim 5. (Original) A process for making the solution of claim 4 which comprises grafting polyvinyl alcohol with a water or alcohol soluble or dispersible monomer in a solvent which is water, alcohol, hydrocarbon, water-alcohol, water-hydrocarbon, or water-alcohol-hydrocarbon mixtures in the presence of an initiator.

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Claim 6. (Original) A process according to claim 5 wherein said free radical or redox initiator is H₂O₂, ceric complexes, ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, potassium persulfate, cumene peroxide, t-butyperoxypivalate, or benzoyl peroxide, ferric chloride, hydrogen peroxide-iron, hydrogen peroxide-copper, azo, and mixtures thereof, or the like.

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) A personal care product including the tough polymer of claim 2.

Claim 8. (Original) A hair care product according to claim 7 which forms a tough, yet flexible film on the hair of the user, which is soluble or dispersible in water, alcohol, water-alcohol, water-hydrocarbon, or water-alcohol-hydrocarbon mixtures.

Claim 9. (Original) A cosmetic or dermatological, film-forming composition according to claim 7 for producing a water-resistant film demonstrating excellent hold and durability properties.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)